

Capstone Project and Portfolio

To fulfill the requirements for the MA in English, most students must complete the Capstone option, along with a Reflective Statement. Students in this option compile artifacts from earlier courses, along with the Capstone Project and Reflective Statement, to create a Portfolio.

MA students should enroll in ENG 699: Master's Thesis/Capstone when they have completed at least 18 credit hours in the program. MA students are required to take 3 credit hours of ENG 699 to graduate. While student may write a Thesis to fulfill this requirement, they are encouraged to complete the Capstone, which allows students the chance to create documents that more immediately useful.

Before signing up for ENG 699 to work on their Capstone Project and Portfolio, MA students must:

- Ask a graduate faculty member to serve as their Capstone Advisor (a list is available from the Graduate Coordinator).
- Complete and submit a Capstone Proposal Form.

CAPSTONE PROJECT

While each individual student's Capstone Project will have a customized list of requirements, all students must create a total of 30 pages of polished writing (approx. 7300 words) directly related to the Capstone Project. Capstone Projects may also involve unpolished writing that does not count toward these 30 pages of polished writing, such as journal entries. Capstone Projects can take many forms, such as:

- An internship, implementation of an innovative teaching project, service learning or community project, accompanied by a critical writing component,
- A digital project with a critical writing component,
- An academic conference presentation, with preparatory research reports and book reviews,
- An article submitted for publication in a scholarly venue,
- A grant proposal,
- A research collaboration with faculty,
- A combination of any of these forms, or any other such project developed in collaboration with the faculty advisor.

PORTFOLIO

The Portfolio asks students to assemble work that demonstrates they have met the requirements of the program. This Portfolio will include course artifacts, the Capstone Project, and a Reflective Statement.

The Portfolio is based on the revision of 2 seminar papers or projects, and the presentation of 1 to 4 additional course artifacts (for a total of 3-6 course artifacts). At least one of the two revisions should be of an academic paper.

This work is completed under the advisement of the Capstone Advisor.

The Portfolio should contain:

1. **The Completed Capstone Project**
2. **An Inventory of Coursework.** An outline of courses taken in the MA program, with brief reflective annotations (c. 200-500 words).
3. **Revisions of 2 seminar papers or projects.** The student should revise two seminar papers or projects that represent significant work in the program. These should be separate from the 30 pages of polished writing associated with the Capstone Project. At least one of the two revisions should be of an academic paper. At a minimum, the revised papers or projects must respond to revision suggestions of department faculty (and ideally the feedback of the faculty member for whom the paper was originally written).
4. **Additional course artifact(s).** The student should select and include 1 to 4 unrevised course artifacts that illustrate achievement in the program. These works should support the points made in the Reflective Statement.
5. **A Reflective Statement.** This document, typically 8-10 double-spaced pages (2000-2500 words), is a reflective and critical appraisal of the student's growth as a reader, writer, and scholar. The Statement is a report of the student's accomplishments: past and future research, developing pedagogical and critical skills, engagement with literary works and methodologies, and most important claims and insights.

At the end of the program, students will give a presentation, either in a public academic setting or to a faculty committee. The specifics of each student's presentation will be developed with the Capstone Advisor. In general, each student will make a fifteen-minute presentation based on their portfolio, followed by a Q/A period.

Unless doing so interferes with plans for publication or agreements with community partners, students are expected to submit their Capstone Projects for upload onto the English Department's student research page at IdeaExchange@UA, https://ideaexchange.uakron.edu/english_studideas/